

Message Text

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ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 INR-07 IO-13 MED-02

NSAE-00 PA-01 DHA-05 SCA-01 OES-07 USIA-06 PRS-01

CIAE-00 AID-05 DODE-00 SCS-03 /080 W

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R 021155Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8727

INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, AMED, SWEL, PORS, TU

SUBJ: CHOLERA IN TURKEY

1. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED): THERE HAVE BEEN MANY RECENT PRESS REPORTS CLAIMING OUTBREAKS OF CHOLERA IN TURKEY. IN ADDITION, VEDAT DALOKAY, MAYOR OF ANKARA AND A MEMBER OF OPPOSITION REPUBLIC PEOPLES PARTY, HAS STATED "THERE IS CHOLERA IN ANKAR," AND HASAN FEHMI MAVI, GENERAL PRESIDENT OF TUS-DER, A LEFTIST PRIVATE HEALTH WORKERS (NON-DOCTORS) ORGANIZATION, HAS MADE DETAILED CLAIMS THAT CHOLERA HAS OCCURRED IN VARIOUS SECTIONS OF ANKARA AND THAT CHOLERA PATIENTS ARE BEING TREATED IN THREE ANKARA HOSPITALS. HOWEVER, THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE, CENGIZ GOKCEK, HAS CONTINUALLY DENIED THAT A WAVE OF INTESTINAL INFECTION IS IN FACT CHOLERA.(END UNCLASSIFIED)

2. (BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE): THE CONSULAR SECTION HAS MADE INQUIRIES THROUGH SOURCES AT HACETTEPE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NUMUNE HOSPITALS, THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH. THESE SOURCES UNIFORMLY STATE THAT INTESTINAL INFECTION IN ANKARA IS NOT CHOLERA AND THAT CHOLERA IS NOT PRESENT IN TURKEY.

3. A MEDICAL PROFESSOR FROM DIYARBAKIR WHO APPLIED FOR A VISA AUGUST 31 STATED IN CONFIDENCE THAT THERE HAVE

BEEN SEVERAL CASES OF CHOLERA IN THE DIYARBAKIR AREA, NEAR THE SYRIAN BORDER. HE SAID THAT THE INFECTION HAD CLEARLY SPREAD FROM SYRIA, THAT HEALTH OFFICIALS HAD TAKEN VIGOROUS MEASURES AND THAT THESE ISOLATED CASES HAD BEEN CONTAINED. (END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

4. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED): PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT DUE TO CONCERN OVER CHOLERA GREEK BORDER POLICE "ARE MAKING CLOSE HEALTH INSPECTIONS" AND THAT BULGARIA HAS CEASED TO ISSUE TOURIST VISAS IN TURKEY AND IS LIMITING TRANSITS TO TWELVE HOURS. GREEK EMBASSY ANKARA STATES THAT NO INNOCULATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR ENTRY INTO GREECE. BULGARIAN EMBASSY ANKARA STATES THAT ABOVE RESTRICTIONS APPLY ONLY TO TURKISH NATIONALS. EGYPTIAN EMBASSY ANKARA ADVISES THAT VALID CHOLERA INNOCULATIONS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ENTRY INTO EGYPT.

5. AT THIS TIME THERE APPEARS TO BE NO SOUND BASIS FOR REPORTS OF CHOLERA IN TURKEY EXCEPT IN THE AREA ADJACENT TO SYRIA. THE EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH THE SITUATION. PRESS REPORTS MAY BE DISTORTED. TRAVELLERS FROM TURKEY MAY ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES IF THEIR CHOLERA INNOCULATIONS ARE NOT CURRENT.(END UNCLASSIFIED). SPIERS

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